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International MEDLARS Cooperation

Three countries have recently entered into *quid-pro-quo* partnership arrangements with the National Library of Medicine for MEDLARS® cooperation: Iran, Mexico, and South Africa. These three countries join eight other NLM partners: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the World Health Organization.

The agreements are truly cooperative in nature and are based on substantive scientific and technical considerations. The total impact of these bilateral arrangements is, in effect, an international network of biomedical information exchange.

Iran

On May 12, 1975, a memorandum of understanding was signed by A. H. Samii, M.D., Director of the Imperial Medical Complex of Iran and Martin M. Cummings, M.D., Director of the National Library of Medicine, to further cooperative arrangements which will result in improved biomedical communications between both countries. Recently, Dr. Cummings and Dr. Samii signed an amendment to this memorandum to initiate the *quid-pro-quo* arrangement whereby Iran will have access to the NLM computer on-line for MEDLINE search services.

During the last year, Iran has been developing the Pahlavi Library of Medicine in Tehran as a national resource. Homayoun Amir-Ahmadi, M.D., was appointed Director and has recruited key staff for its operation. Two of these, Mrs. Foroogh Koochek and Mr. Amir H. Rezvani, have been at the NLM for specialized training and a work/study program.

Mrs. Koochek has been appointed Chief Librarian for the Pahlavi Library of Medicine. She received a B.S. in nursing in Iran and a Library Association Diploma at Leeds Polytechnic, Yorkshire, England. Mrs. Koochek's professional experience has been as a nurse, Senior Assistant for the Library of the International Institute for Adult Literacy Methods in

Amir Rezvani (left) of Iran returned home on June 30th after intensive MEDLINE training at the Library. His colleague, Mrs. Koochek, is shown with Stefanus Rossouw of South Africa (right) and Jorge Cervantes of Mexico. The three, who are returning soon to their countries, took part in a training class taught by NLM's On-Line Training Coordinator, Laura Eisenberg.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Tehran, and Assistant Librarian for the British Council in Tehran.

Mr. Rezvani has been at NLM for training as a MEDLARS search specialist. He received a B.S. in biology and an M.S. in biology and biological teaching at Tehran University. He taught biology for four years and has translated a number of books from English to Persian.

Mexico

For a number of years there have been discussions between the United States and Mexico on potential cooperation in biomedical information. The Minister of Health of Mexico has recently created a Centro Nacional de Informacion y Documentacion en Salud (CENIDS), which will be responsible for providing biomedical information services to the health community of Mexico. A memorandum of understanding was signed on June 30, 1976, by Secretary of Health, Dr. Gines Navarro Diaz de Leon, Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Dr. Cummings.

Mr. Jorge Cervantes is the first of several Mexicans to be trained at NLM as MEDLINE search analysts. Mr. Cervantes is Chief of the CENIDS Communications and Computing Department.

South Africa

On May 21, 1976, Professor A. J. Brink, President of the South African Medical Research Council and Dean of the Stellenbosch Medical School, signed a memorandum of understanding with Dr. Cummings for a bilateral *quid-pro-quo* arrangement on MEDLARS. The Medical Research Council of South Africa will have on-line access to the NLM computer to provide MEDLINE services within that country.

Stefanus A. Rossouw, Director of the Institute for Medical Literature of the Medical Research Council, is responsible for implementing biomedical information activities within South Africa. He has been at NLM for a specialized program in the organization, management, and implementation of biomedical information activities. Mr. Rossouw received degrees from the University of Pretoria, the University of Cape Town, and the University of Stellenbosch. He has served as Deputy University Librarian at the University of Rhodesia in Salisbury and the University of Stellenbosch. In the latter position, he assisted in planning a new medical branch library at the Faculty of Medicine. He also established an on-line ordering and circulation system as a pilot project at the Engineering Branch Library.

Visit by Australian Librarian

Mr. Colin Freeman, Principal Librarian, Life Sciences, of the National Library of Australia, recently completed a one-month visit to the U.S. Mr. Freeman, who is responsible for implementing the biomedical bibliographic information services of the National Library of Australia and developing a library network, spent three weeks at NLM meeting with staff to explore these topics and discuss mutual problems.

Mr. Freeman also visited with Louise Darling, Director of the Pacific Southwest Regional Medical Library (UCLA), and her staff, and with William S. Budington and the staff of the Midwest Health Sciences Library Network (John Crerar Library, Chicago).

U.S. Delegation Visits U.S.S.R. to Discuss Biomedical Communications

At the invitation of Dr. Dmitri D. Venediktov, Deputy Minister of Health of the U.S.S.R., a U.S. Delegation on Biomedical Communications

visited the Soviet Union from June 17 to July 1. The Delegation was headed by NLM Director, Martin M. Cummings, M.D., and included W. N. Hubbard, Jr., M.D., Past Chairman of the NLM Board of Regents and President of the Upjohn Company; Miss Mary E. Corning, NLM Assistant Director for International Programs; and Dr. Vladimir Slamecka, Director, School of Information and Computer Science, Georgia Institute of Technology. The Delegation's visit was under the aegis of the US/USSR Agreement for Cooperation in Medical Science and Public Health.

For a number of years biomedical communication has been identified within the Agreement as an area for exploration and possible cooperation. At the personal request of Minister of Health Petrovsky, the NLM had received Professor Yurii P. Lisitsyn, Director of the All-Union Research Institute for Medical and Medico-Technical Information (VNIIMI), in September 1973, for three weeks. The purpose of the U.S. Delegation's trip was to explore further whether substantive areas could in fact be identified for cooperation.

The Delegation began its sessions in Moscow by meeting with Dr. Venediktov and his staff at the Ministry of Public Health; they subsequently visited a number of institutions in Moscow, Riga, Kiev, and Tashkent. In Moscow these included VNIIMI, the Central State Medical Scientific Library, the Lenin State Library, the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information (VINITI), the U.S.S.R. Academy of Medical Sciences, the Moscow Scientific Research Institute of Pediatrics and Child Surgery and its Department of Scientific and Medical Information. In Latvia, the Delegation met with the Minister of Public Health, officials in the Institute of Organic Synthesis of the Academy of Sciences, and the Riga Medical Institute and its Department of Scientific and Medical Information. The staff of the Institute of Cybernetics of Kiev in the Ukraine and of the Republic Libraries in both the Ukraine and Uzbekistan also met with the U.S. Delegation.

Soviet activities are under way to establish network relationships between VNIIMI as a central resource and medical libraries within the various republics. VNIIMI, which is the publisher of *Meditsinskii Referativnyi Zhurnal,* is developing its computer resources so as to be able to provide information services and to publish materials. Currently used are the second generation computers MINSK 22 and 32.

The observations and conclusions of the deliberations of the U.S. Delegation and their U.S.S.R. counterparts will be presented to the formal US/USSR Joint Committee for Health Cooperation later this year.

NLM Supports Preservation of Senator Lister Hill's Papers

Future medical historians delving into the period between Warren G. Harding's administration and Lyndon B. Johnson's will find a wealth of processed and microfilmed papers relating to the public career and legislative interests of Lister Hill, former U.S. senator from Alabama. Senator Hill's career as a lawmaker spanned the years 1923-1968, and his imprint is to be found on much of the important health legislation of that period.

The material now exists as 910 linear feet of records, estimated to contain over a million items relating to Senator Hill's public life. The National Library of Medicine has contracted with the University of Alabama in Birmingham (Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences) to process and microfilm the records.

The contract also includes the preparation of a monograph, *Lister Hill—Health Statesman,* to be written by Dr. Virginia Hamilton, chairman of the University's Department of History. The 200-page monograph will trace the development of health related legislation which Senator Hill helped steer through the Congress and will evaluate his stature as a statesman in the area of national health.

Senator Hill (with Senator John F. Kennedy) co-sponsored the legislation which in 1956 created the National Library of Medicine. His name was given by Congress to the research and development component of the Library—the Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications.

NLM, Informed Consent, and Other New Literature Searches

Nearly 500 articles dealing with the National Library of Medicine are listed in a new MEDLINE search published in the Library's series of Literature Searches. The bibliography includes citations to articles in which NLM is the main topic, as well as those in which the Library's programs are discussed in relation to medical librarianship, communication systems, computer processing, etc.

A complete list of Literature Searches appears in each issue of *Index Medicus* and *Abridged Index Medicus*. When requesting Literature Searches (available without charge), please include title and number, enclose a self-addressed gummed label, and mail to:

Literature Search Program
Reference Section
National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

LS 76-32 *The National Library of Medicine: selected references from the biomedical literature.* January 1966 through July 1976. 471 citations.

LS 76-33 *Vasoactive intestinal polypeptide.* January 1974 through June 1976. 49 citations.

LS 76-34 *Informed consent.* (Updates LS 74-16.) May 1974 through June 1976. 403 citations.

LS 76-35 *The role of interferon and interferon inducers in cancer.* January 1974 through June 1976. 127 citations.

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